

# VAL BRANDON TODAY T CONFEROT NEGRO ACCUSED OF KILLING HIS GIRL-WIFE

## SNOWDEN TALKS NERVE OF SUSPECT HUSBAND HOPES WOULD HELP LYNCH PROVE EVIDENCE TO REPORTER OF NEW AUTOPSY OF NEW AUTOPSY IS IRREFUTABLE

### BRANDON CASE UNDER INQUISITION MARVEL TO POLICE HE CAN IDENTIFY SLAYER SUSPECT MOTHER OF VICTIM

(Continued from Page One.)

"What did you have in that bottle you took out of your pocket in front of the Brandon house?"

"I never had any bottle in my pocket, and I never took any out."

"But both of these women say they saw you take a bottle out of your pocket. Why would they say that?"

**Refuses To Answer.**

Again the prisoner shifted about uneasily in his chair, but made no reply.

"Where were you when arrested?"

"A detective pulled me off the ice wagon."

"Did he tell you what he wanted you for?"

"No, he just said, 'Come along.'"

"What did you say?"

"I said, 'Wait till I turn this money into the box.'"

"You walked several blocks to the courthouse with him, didn't you?"

"Yes, I went right along."

"Did you ask him what he wanted you for?"

"No, I didn't ask him."

"Yet you didn't have any idea what the trouble was?"

"No, I didn't ask no questions. I didn't know why they wanted me, but I kept still."

**Denies Bill Was Taken.**

"When you bought those three bottles of beer at Martin's saloon on Wednesday, what did you pay him with?"

"A \$1 bill."

"What did Martin say about it being torn?"

"It wasn't torn. It was just like any other dollar bill."

"Where had you gotten it?"

"Mr. Morgan Parlett gave it to me when he paid me off the day before."

"Do you belong to any church?"

"Sometimes I go to the Baptist Church with Edna."

"What's the preacher's name?"

"I don't know. They've got a new man there."

"How long has it been since you went to church?"

"Oh I guess it must have been about six weeks."

"You didn't go there the Sunday after this murder, did you?"

"No, Edna couldn't go any place because she was sick."

**Avoids Questioner's Eyes.**

This questioning continued for half an hour but no marked discrepancies in the negro's statements. He did not seem to avoid the questioner's eyes. Much of the time he was looking at the floor. Two faint scratches on his dusky cheeks were hardly visible, and in a day or two will be entirely obliterated.

Snowden appears to be of almost pure African stock. His head is bullet shaped and closely cropped; the bridge of his nose is slightly prominent, but the nostrils are broad and flat; his lips are thick and prominent and overshadow his chin.

In figure the negro is short and stocky, and of powerful build. He was dressed in a dirty cotton shirt, with short sleeves, and open at the neck, a pair of tattered black trousers and canvas "sneakers" that were once white, but are now very much discolored.

**WILL CONFESS SOON, POLICE DECLARE, AS EVIDENCE INCREASES**

BALTIMORE, Aug. 16.—"We are cleaning up after this murder just like they clean up after a big fire, hunting out every place where there is any smoke, and gathering up every bit of information that is possible."

Marshal Robert Carter, of the Baltimore police, thus summed up the investigation of the murder of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon in Annapolis a week ago yesterday, for which John Snowden, a negro, is now under arrest here.

**Still Expects Confession.**

The police official said he was more certain than ever that the Annapolis mystery had been solved and still

seems sanguine that a confession from Snowden is only a matter of time.

The physicians who held the second autopsy over the body of Mrs. Brandon were prepared to go on the witness stand and swear they found under the fingernails of the dead woman bits of skin from a negro," he said this the murder was committed and cannot be shaken.

"In addition to this we have the negro's conflicting statements as to his whereabouts on that day, and his final admission that he was in front of the house just about the time Mrs. Brandon was killed."

"These are the main links in the chain, and three of the best Baltimore detectives are working with the Annapolis authorities today, expecting to add others."

After confronting John Snowden, the negro held in connection with the murder of Mrs. Lottie Brandon in Annapolis last week, two important witnesses were returned to Annapolis today, having proved that much of the suspect's story was false.

Edna Wallace, common law wife of Snowden, and John Green, colored, his neighbor, were the two brought here by Baltimore detectives. Snowden said that he and Green left the Brandon home on the day of the murder.

Late yesterday Green was taken to Snowden's cell.

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BALTIMORE, Aug. 16.—No man accused of a capital crime in recent years has been given a more thorough modern inquisition by detectives seeking to bring a confession of guilt than John Snowden, the negro who was accused of the murder of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon.

No "third degree" methods such as physical violence or days and nights without sleep have been inflicted on the accused man since his arrest in Annapolis last Monday afternoon and his incarceration in Baltimore a few hours later.

**Negro Is Cautious.**

He is too cunning to be moved by such methods even if the police were disposed to use them. But hour after hour during each day and far into each night he has been pilled with questions as to his movements on the day of the murder and confronted with statements he has made which have proved to be false.

This bombardment of interrogations and accusations has worn him down visibly so that he has slept but fitfully in his cell. Though of a robust type he has lost a hearty meal in the last three days.

The procedure for the last three days has been to question the negro immediately after he has had his breakfast. He is faced by detectives who have worked on the case all the day before in Annapolis. They question him mercilessly as to his motive for lying.

**Sometimes Gets Sullen.**

Driven into a corner he now and then shakes his head sullenly and refuses to answer.

The second questioning usually takes place early in the afternoon. Then he is questioned again late in the afternoon and at night and forced to listen to a crowd of questions.

In the presence of detectives the accused man perspires profusely, mops his brow with a big red handkerchief, and shifts about uneasily in his chair.

When confronted with his common law wife, Edna Wallace, by the police, he tried to whisper something to her, but Detective Kratz took them apart and wanted him and Edna for breakfast, but when they were taken to his cell he was so nervous that he could eat only a portion of the order. But he drank a cup of coffee greedily.

**Terrified by Crowd.**

The only time the negro seemed on the verge of collapse was late last Monday night when they brought him from Annapolis in an automobile immediately after a four-hour examination in the courthouse there. His condition then, it is thought, to have been due largely to the fact that a crowd of more than 1,500 persons gathered about the courthouse.

It was feared this crowd might attempt to lynch him.

**SNOWDEN'S STORY SEALS HIS FATE, SAY DETECTIVES**

ANAPOLIS, Aug. 16.—Detectives Herman Pohler, John Kratz, and Joseph Dougherty, the Baltimore men most active in the investigation of the murder of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon, today declared that they no longer are working on theories but are inquiring into facts, and expressed the belief that if John Snowden, the negro accused of the murder, continues to tell falsehoods, they ultimately will land him in a trap that will send him to the gallows.

It was learned today that the Rev. W. H. Hughes, a colored minister living at 1009 Third street northwest in Washington would be a witness at the inquest to be held by the coroner's jury when the detectives announce that they have completed their investigation.

The Rev. E. R. Williams, the colored minister, who lives next door to the Brandon home, says the Washington minister was sitting on his front porch with him about noon on the day of the murder, and that neither of them saw anybody come out of the home of the murdered woman.

The Rev. John Clair, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church of which Mary Perkins and Edith Queen are members, said today that he believes the two colored women told the truth when they said they saw Snowden leaving the Brandon home on Wednesday.

Acting on instructions from State Attorney Green, Sheriff Sullivan, of Anne Arundel county, today released from jail John H. Henry Green, the negro who confronted Snowden in Baltimore last night; Frank Green, his brother, who also was locked up yesterday, and Edna Wallace, common law wife of Snowden.

Sheriff Sullivan today went to the Brandon home and collected all the articles there which might be useful as evidence and took them to his office in the courthouse. The articles included the mattress on which Mrs. Brandon died, the sheet and counterpane and pillows, together with the several hammers and stove lid lifter, with which the injuries found on Mrs. Brandon's head could have been inflicted.

**LENINE IN PETROGRAD?**

(By Agency Radio to the International Service.)

PETROGRAD, Aug. 16.—Nicholas Lenin, agitator and pro-German agent, who was recently reported to have fled to Switzerland, is now said to be hiding in this city. It was reported today that Lenin, from his hiding place, sent a report to the extremist congress on Sunday.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 16.—Valentine N. Brandon, whose wife was murdered at her home in Annapolis last week, and John Snowden, the negro accused by the police of committing the crime, will come face to face for the first time today at detective headquarters in Baltimore.

**Can't Remember Suspect.**

Brandon reached here shortly after noon and asked to be allowed to see the negro to see if he could remember having seen him around his home in Annapolis. So far the bereaved husband has been unable to recall a negro of Snowden's name or description.

Although Snowden admits that Edna Wallace, with whom he was living, did Mrs. Brandon's washing for several months, he claims he was never in the Brandon home and did not know Mr. Brandon. Confronted by the husband, the detectives hope, this assertion will be proven false, and will be another link in the chain of evidence, showing that the accused man is trying to cover up his tracks.

**To Meet Under Big Light.**

The two will come together in the little room just across the hall from detective headquarters in the courthouse in Baltimore. It has only one window but is lighted by a big electric trolley under which the two men will have a clear view of each other. Only Assistant Marshal House and one of his detectives, who has been on the case, will be allowed to be present. Snowden will not be told he is to be faced by the husband of the murdered woman, and his actions

will be closely watched when Brandon enters the room.

After seeing the husband of the woman he is accused of having slain, Snowden probably will be taken to the Baltimore jail and his questioning temporarily suspended. The three days' inquisition have brought from him several contradictory statements, but no flat admission of guilt.

**Detectives All Confident.**

All the detectives working on the case however, including Marshal Robert Carter of the Baltimore police department are still firm in their belief that Snowden is the man responsible for the tragedy.

Snowden was pulled down off his ice wagon in Annapolis by Detective Pohler last Monday, and for thirty-six hours since then he has been questioned and cross questioned. All this has failed to break his "nerve" however, and when trapped into false statements he always takes refuge in silence.

For this reason the authorities who have him in charge believe it best to let up on him until they have woven a more complete net of circumstantial evidence about him.

"He is a tough customer, but I think we can convict him on the evidence now in hand," said Deputy Marshal Samuel House this afternoon.

**GIVES POSSIBLE CLUE TO BRANDON SLAYER**

Should the Maryland authorities fall to fix guilt for the murder of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon on John Snowden, the negro now under arrest in Baltimore, the trail may turn toward Riverport, Md.

William E. Nash, of 116 R street northwest, says that a highly nervous young man arrived at Riverport on the evening following the murder and talked of having been at Annapolis. This information will be turned over to the Maryland investigators.

"We have not run down this Riverport clue," said Inspector C. L. Grant, chief of Washington detectives, "because the Baltimore authorities gave us such assurances that there could be no doubt of the fact that a negro killed Mrs. Brandon."

Mr. Nash, who was at Riverport last week on a fishing trip, said the young man came to the Riverport Hotel about 11 o'clock on the night of last Thursday.

"The young man acted in a rather suspicious manner," said Mr. Nash. "He arrived without baggage and apparently entirely without funds. He remained in his room until late in the following morning, and during the remainder of my stay there he was continuously begging from me and others."

"He admitted he had no money, but said he lived twenty miles outside of New York city, and added that he belonged to the aviation corps."

longed to the aviation corps. "At another time he mentioned having come from Annapolis."

According to Nash, the young man told the other guests at the hotel that he came there to flim but, Nash says, no one ever saw him engage in the sport.

**DISTRICT'S SOLDIERS ASSIGNED TO DIVISIONS**

The drafted men of the District, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and New Jersey will be formed into the Eighty-fifth division of the national army after they reach the cantonment at Petersburg, Va., the War Department announced today.

The national guard division formed by troops of the same States and the District will be known as the Twenty-ninth division after it assembles at Anniston, Ala. The Third Infantry Regiment, largest tactical organization of the District guard, will be made a part of the Thirtieth division, which will train at Greenville, S. C.

## ARGENTINE RAILROAD STRIKE MAY SPREAD

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 16.—With 12,000 railway employees on strike in Central Argentina, the leaders of the movement today threatened to make it general unless an agreement was reached at once. Efforts are being made by the railroad men to induce other trades to join the walkout.

The federation of Argentine labor has adopted a resolution protesting against possible intervention by the government.

Even though the particles of flesh under Mrs. Lottie Brandon's finger nails at the second autopsy were only as large as the point of a pin; even though they were a week old at the time, it is possible to ascertain with absolute certainty whether these particles were scratched from the skin of a white or colored man.

**Bacteriology the Key.**

In order to understand and to explain to its readers just how the physicians in charge of the autopsy could state, after the second autopsy, with such definiteness that Mrs. Brandon was murdered by a negro, a Times reporter went to the Emergency Hospital, where, under the direction, and with the aid of J. W. Hart, the superintendent, he was permitted to make identically the same sort of an experiment as was made upon Lottie Brandon. He was provided with the same sort of scientific equipment, including the bacteriological microscope used at the autopsy.

Taking one colored and one white nail, and that particle was larger than the point of a pin, even though it was days old, it would be possible to reach an absolutely scientific and trustworthy conclusion that the skin particle was that of a negro.

The Times experiment demonstrates that science will certainly play an extraordinary part in bringing Mrs. Brandon's slayer to justice, and that a pathological expert on the witness stand will easily be able to show that a negro and not a white person was involved.

It also appears that not only will this scientific procedure be valuable in this particular case, but will establish a precedent.

**LESS ELECTRICITY TO SAVE COAL IN GERMANY**

LONDON, Aug. 16.—Owing to the coal shortage in Germany a general reduction in the amount of electricity made in the empire has been decided on.

A dispatch from Frankfurt by way of Amsterdam to the Exchange Telegraph Company says the reduction chiefly concerns lighting, but industries generally will only be able to obtain from 40 to 60 per cent of their normal requirements.

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